

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-74 (cancelled)

75. (new) A system, comprising:
an automotive linkage, comprising:

a hollow elongated member having a constant cross-section along the entire length of the hollow elongated member, wherein the constant cross-section comprises a multi-sided interior defining first and second sockets at respective first and second opposite ends of the hollow elongated member; and

a first joint member coupled to the first socket, wherein the first joint member comprises an attachment portion having a multi-sided perimeter mated with the multi-sided interior of the first socket.

76. (new) The system of claim 75, comprising a second joint member coupled to the second socket, wherein the second joint member comprises another attachment portion having another multi-sided perimeter mated with the multi-sided interior of the second socket.

77. (new) The system of claim 76, wherein the first and second joints comprise different joint structures.

78. (new) The system of claim 76, wherein the first and second joints comprise the same attachment portion.

79. (new) The system of claim 75, wherein the first joint member is selected from a plurality of different joint members having the same attachment portion.

80. (new) The system of claim 75, wherein the first joint member comprises a ball joint.

81. (new) The system of claim 75, wherein the multi-sided interior is a square.

82. (new) The system of claim 75, wherein the constant cross-section is a uniformly extruded geometry along the entire length of the hollow elongated member.

83. (new) A system, comprising:

an elongated automotive linkage comprising a first end, a second end, and a uniform cross-section from the first end to the second end; and

a family of joints each comprising a modular attachment portion configured to mate with the uniform cross-section at the first or second end of the elongated automotive linkage.

84. (new) The system of claim 83, wherein the family of joints comprise a ball joint, or a polygonal receptacle joint, or a circular receptacle joint, or a square receptacle joint, or a hook-shaped joint, or a bushing and grommet joint, or a combination thereof.

85. (new) The system of claim 83, wherein the family of joints comprise a plurality of different rotatable joints.

86. (new) The system of claim 83, wherein the uniform cross-section comprises a uniform hollow interior.

87. (new) The system of claim 83, wherein the elongated automotive linkage and the family of joints comprise a family of automotive suspension or steering linkages.

88. (new) A family of linkages, comprising:

a plurality of elongated hollow linkages each comprising a uniformly extruded cross-section extending between opposite ends of the respective elongated hollow linkage; and

a plurality of joints having different geometries and joint mechanisms, wherein each of the plurality of joints has a standard attachment portion configured to mate with the uniformly extruded cross-section at one of the opposite ends of one of the plurality of elongated hollow linkages.

89. (new) The family of claim 88, wherein the plurality of elongated linkages comprise a first linkage having a square cross-section and a second linkage having a cross-section defined by a plurality of superimposed squares.

90. (new) The family of claim 88, wherein the uniformly extruded cross-section comprises a uniform wall thickness.

91. (new) The family of claim 88, wherein the standard attachment portion comprises a square geometry.

92. (new) The family of claim 88, wherein the plurality of joints comprise a plurality of different rotatable joint structures.

93. (new) The family of claim 88, wherein the plurality of joints comprise a plurality of different male and female joint structures.

94. (new) The family of claim 88, wherein plurality of elongated hollow linkages and the plurality of joints define a family of automotive linkages.

95. (new) A system, comprising:

a family of linkage joints having different geometries and joint mechanisms, wherein each of the plurality of linkage joints has a standard attachment portion configured to mate with a uniform lengthwise cross-section of an elongated hollow linkage.

96. (new) The system of claim 95, wherein the standard attachment portion comprises a square geometry.

97. (new) The system of claim 95, wherein the plurality of linkage joints comprise a plurality of different rotatable joint structures.

98. (new) The system of claim 95, wherein the plurality of linkage joints comprise a plurality of different male and female joint structures.